

I support media diversity  
June 1st, 2003  
To Chairman Michael Powell,

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market. Tomorrow, June 2nd, the FCC is planning to vote on whether to modify the current rules of media ownership. I urge you not to vote for relaxing the current regulations that are in place, and to take the time to listen to the voices of the people whose lives will be affected by such an action.

I am deeply concerned about the negative results that the proposed modifications will have on the quality and diversity of information available to myself and to all Americans. I am concerned because the benefits that the proposed modifications will have for the people of the United States are not clear to me, but the potential harm that these modifications may cause seems quite clear.

In 1997 I was a volunteer for Allston Free Radio, a community radio station in Allston, MA. The station was well-received in the community, but was unfortunately forced to discontinue because the current rules and regulations of the FCC do not allow for small stations to operate without a prohibitively expensive transmitter's license.

I am afraid that by relaxing the current rules of ownership it will become harder than ever for new and innovative news sources to break into a market increasingly dominated by large players, by corporations who often have little more interest in the community than the profits to be made.

Again, I urge you to postpone the vote on June 2nd, and to re-open the matter to further investigation, and to the voices of the people in the communities around the country whose lives will be affected by the inevitable consolidation of media companies.

Thank you,  
Jeremy Biddle